

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-14, and add claims 20-28, as set forth in the listing of claims that follows.

The claims have been rewritten. In view of the cancellation of the original claims, Applicants calculate that no fee is required for the new claims. In the event that a fee is deemed due, authorization to charge the fee to assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0831 is set forth in the final paragraph of this Amendment.

1-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method for the attachment of a steering column (10) to a cross-member (40) of a motor vehicle, in particular for a screw connection of the steering column (10) and/or of a dashboard holder to the cross-member (40), wherein the steering column (10) is hung onto the cross-member (40) by means of holding means (20, 22, 24, 30) formed at the steering column (10) and of holding means (50, 54, 60, 2), formed correspondingly at the cross-member (40) such that the steering column (10) is held freely suspended at the cross-member (40) in a pre-installation state.

16. (Withdrawn) An arrangement in accordance with claim 15, characterized in that the hanging of the steering column (10) to the cross-member (40) takes place by hooking the steering column (10) to at least one rear holding means (50, 54) of the cross-member (40), by pivoting the steering column (10) and by displacing the steering column (10) while inserting a front holding means (24) of the steering column (10) into a front holding means (64) of the cross-member (40).

17. (Withdrawn) An arrangement in accordance with claim 15 or claim 16, characterized in that at least one rear holding means (30) of the steering column (10) is secured, in particular by a latch unit (32, 34), to a rear holding means (50, 54) of the cross-member (40).

18. (Withdrawn) An arrangement in accordance with any one of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that the steering column (10) is aligned with the cross-member (40) and/or with a dashboard holder by means of a centering pin (36) in the pre-installation state.

19. (Withdrawn) An arrangement in accordance with any one of claims 15 to 18, characterized in that the steering column (10) is screwed to the cross-member (40) and/or to a dashboard holder starting from the pre-installation state.

20. (New) An arrangement for holding a steering column to a cross-member of a motor vehicle in a pre-installation state, said steering column having a front and a rear, said arrangement comprising

a front holding means for suspending the front of the steering column; and

rear holding means for suspending the rear of the steering column,

said rear holding means including an arm attached to the steering column, and a support section attached to the cross-member having a bore for receiving said arm such that the steering column is hooked to the support section to pivot the steering column about the rear holding means and subsequently displaced toward the front to engage the front holding means to freely suspend the steering column in the pre-installation state.

21. (New) The arrangement in claim 20, wherein the arm extends parallel to a longitudinal central axis of the steering column in a direction toward the rear.

22. (New) The arrangement in claim 20, wherein the arm includes a hook for securing the steering column to the support section.

23. (New) The arrangement in claim 22, wherein the hook includes a projection and a cut-out for securing the steering column to the support section.

24. (New) The arrangement in claim 20, wherein the bore is elongated to allow upward movement of the steering column into a final installation state.

25. (New) The arrangement in claim 20, wherein the rear holding means includes a fastening section for fastening the steering column to the support section of the cross-member by a screw.

26. (New) The arrangement in claim 20, wherein the front holding means comprises

an arm projecting upwardly from the steering column and comprising a spigot; and

a support arm attached to the cross-member and having a bore that receives said spigot to engage the front holding means.

27. (New) The arrangement in claim 26, wherein the spigot faces the front of the steering column.

28. (New) The arrangement in claim 20, wherein the steering column further comprises a centering pin, and the cross-member further comprises a bore that engages the centering pin for aligning the steering column to the cross-member.